RICHMOND FOOTBALL CLUB.

PREMIERS 1902. RUNNERS-UP 1901-1903.

Twentieth Annual Report and Balance-Sheet

For Season 1903.

Patrons:
CR. G. R. ADMANS (Mayor of Richmond), SENATOR W. A. TRENWITH, FRANK TUDOR, M.H.R., THEO. FINK, M.L.A.

President:
GEORGE H. BENNETT, ESQ., M.L.A.

Vice-Presidents:
D. J. DONNELLY, M. GREEN, J. M. JONES, J. McGAW, LOVELL BROS., J. ILOTT, RICHARD STEVENS, FRANK MANZIE, ALEX. STEVENS, J. GUNN, W. MILNE, T. LLOYD, P. SMART, DR. WILLIS, MRS. STEVENS, H. B. TAYLOR, MISS TABULO, A. GRIFFITHS, M. M. FITZGERALD, J. McCONVILLE, G. TELFORD, W. MALONE, G. WILLIS, J. ASHER, G. MALE, M. J. MAYNE, THOS. BACKHOUSE.

Life Members:
JAS. CHARLES, JAS. EASTMAN, A. ELDER, WM. MALONE, J. H. EGAN, J. J. STEWART, WM. BICKNELL, CHAS. BACKHOUSE.

Hon. Surgeon: DR. MURRAY MORTON.

Hon. Chemist: H. B. TAYLOR.

Delegates to V.F.A.:
J. J. STEWART AND C. BAHEN.

Hon. Treasurer: ARCHIBALD McNAIR.

Hon. Secretary: GEO. PECKHAM-BEACHCROFT.

Assistant Hon. Secretary: RUPERT MANZIE.

Captain: A. EDMONDS

Vice-Captain: A. McNAIR.

Trainer: JOS. McCORMACK.

Assistants: JOS. WATSON AND H. WHITTAKER.

Players:
C. BACKHOUSE, G. BOWNAS, A. CATLIN, J. CATHIE, R. DUNCAN, W. DUNCAN, A. EDMUNDS, P. GIBB, T. GAULT, E. GEGGIE, E. HALL, E. JUSTINS, J. JUSTINS, G. S. JOHNSTONE, J. KENNY, H. LYONS, T. MURPHY, J. MAINE, R. MANZIE, R. McDONALD, E. McDONALD, A. McNAIR, W. McCANCE, A. RICHARDSON, A. ROBSON, E. RUDD, T. WATSON, C. WILLIAMS, P. WILLMOTT, E. VOLLUGI.

ANNUAL MEETING, Town Hall, Richmond, Friday, Mar. 18, 1904.

RICHMOND FOOTBALL CLUB.

SEASON 1904.

TO THE MEMBERS,—

We beg to submit for your approval and information the Twentieth Annual Report and Balance-Sheet, together with a detailed statement of Receipts, for the past season of 1903.

PAST SEASON.

We have to again congratulate the members on the proud position the Club occupied last season, viz., Runners-up. Although not successful in winning the Premiership, they, by their manly and honest play throughout a very hard season, won the admiration and good wishes of thousands of supporters of the glorious winter pastime. The Club right throughout the season led the way at the head of the list, and, had the Premiership been decided as it had been for over 30 years, would have again won the honors. But a new system had been brought about, viz., that after playing each other once, a play-off between the four leading clubs should take place. This was done, and Richmond and North Melbourne then played for first place. Never in the history of the game was such a match played. Brutality and ruffianism of the worst kind characterised the play of the North Melbourne, and our boys were defeated. Amongst the 20,000 spectators, nothing but regret was expressed at the way our boys had lost, who, although defeated, were by no means disgraced.

FINANCIAL.

The Club is again in a sound and solvent position. We had a very heavy drain upon our resources, accidents being a feature of the season. We received altogether £633 15s.; our expenditure came to £560 10s. 8d.; leaving a credit balance of £73 10s. 8d. We have £62 9s. outstanding for tickets, and, with £16 10s. 3d. (Accident Fund), leaves a grand total of £152 9s. 11d. to start the new season with.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

The Club possesses a splendid Committee. They all work in thorough harmony and enthusiastic co-operation with each other, and, under the courteous chairmanship of a very old worker (Mr. John J. Stewart), everything belonging to the business portion of the Club has been well looked after.

ATTENDANCES AT GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

37 Meetings were held.

H. Slattery	37	Alex. Stevens	36	G. Lovell...	33
Andrew Manzie	37	G. Male	36	J. J. Stewart	33
Rupert Manzie (Asst. Sec.)...	37	F. Wright	36	C. Bahen (elected 28th April) ...	31
Geo. P. Beachcroft (Hon. Sec.)	36	A. McNair (absent through		E. J. Sexton	19
Jas. O'Brien	36	accidents)...	33	J. Asher (Vice-President) ...	25

ATTENDANCES AT FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

25 were held.

A. Manzie	25	A. Stevens	25
A. McNair	25	G. P. Beachcroft ...	25

ATTENDANCES AT MATCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

27 were held.

A. Manzie	27	A. McNair	26
Jas. O'Brien	26	A. Edmunds	27
G. P. Beachcroft	26		

LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

A reward of long and faithful service—that of life membership—was bestowed upon one of the finest players who has ever played the glorious pastime, namely, Mr. Chas. Backhouse. This gentleman has worn the colors of the old club over 14 years, and is always in the lead when many a hard-fought victory has been won. Long may the popular "Charlie" be spared is the cordial wish of each and every member of the Club.

TRAINING.

The training of the Club has been carried out by Mr. Joseph McCormack and Assistants Joseph Watson and Herbert Whittaker in a most exemplary and workmanlike manner, and it is undoubtedly due to this fact that the Club still holds their grand position.

EASTER MONDAY TRIP.

The trip to Geelong last Easter Monday was very enjoyable, and arrangements have been made again to play the ever-famous Blue and White at Geelong. The s.s. "Courier" will be engaged to convey the team, thus affording the members and their friends a trip on the briny, and also renewing old friendships on next Easter Monday.

AUDITORS.

Acting upon a resolution that was carried at the last general meeting, an outside Auditor was appointed to audit the books, namely, Mr. Albert Green, who was selected to represent the members, and Mr. Geo. Male the Committee. All will admit that two better or more able gentlemen could not have been selected.

CRICKET CLUBS.

The Committee decided to again carry on the cricket club that was such a great success last season. Two elevens were formed, both entering for the second and third grades respectively of the newly-formed Victorian Junior Cricket Association. Both elevens have been fairly successful in the field, but the object that the General Committee had in view, that of affording pleasure to the players during the summer season, has been fully realised.

THANKS.

The Committee wish to sincerely and heartily thank Dr. Murray Morton for his gratuitous and kindly attention to our wounded players during the season; also to Mr. H. B. Taylor, chemist, and the citizens who so generously contributed to the funds. Mr. Alex. Edmunds, as captain of the team, was an unqualified success, and is personally very popular both on and off the field. The two delegates, Mr. J. J. Stewart and Mr. C. Bahen, to the V.F.A. always evinced the greatest possible interest for the Club at the Association; and to the genial hon. treasurer, Mr. Archie McNair, nothing but praise can be extended to such an enthusiastic office-bearer.

GOAL-KICKING.

The goal-kicking was first-class. We won 154, and lost 106 goals. The principal goal-kickers (all matches) were:—J. Maine, 34; H. Lyons, 16; E. Hall, 13; A. Catlin, 10; E. Wade, 10; G. S. Johnstone, 8; E. McDonald, 9; A. McNair, 5; P. Gibb, 5; J. Hutchinson, 5; J. Davey, 4; W. McCance, 3; A. Edmunds, 3; C. Backhouse, 4; E. Rudd, 3; R. Duncan, 3; T. Watson, 2; E. Vollugi, 2; J. Cathie, 2; F. Hart, 2; E. Geggie, 1; P. Willmott, 1; T. Gault, 1; R. McDonald, 1; E. Justins, 1; A. Robson, 1.

Our team played 21 Premiership matches, winning 17 and losing 4.

PROSPECTS FOR THIS SEASON.

The prospects for this coming season are splendid. Nearly all last year's players are again available, but a few faces will be missed, notably J. Maine and E. Geggie, both of whom are now in the golden West; everyone wishes them good-luck and prosperity. But a large number of tried and untried players are anxious for the ball to be bounced, fully intending to play for the old Club, and bring the Premiership that was so gloriously won in